

The Nativity of our Lord  
Christmas Eve



St. Paul Lutheran Church  
December 24, 2025 5:30pm

## **Welcome to St. Paul**

We are **broken** and **blessed** followers of Christ providing a **home** for all who wander the weary road.

We invite you to sign a guest card in the pew rack, noting your attendance and place it in the offering plate as the offering is taken or you may sign the attendance book in the Fellowship Hall.

## **Holy Communion**

**To Our Guests:** We're glad you're here! Lutherans believe this sacrament is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine. Here he gives himself and all that he promises. Receiving the sacrament is also an expression of full unity in faith with those with whom you are communing. Based on this theological principle, if you are a member of a congregation that shares the confession of faith of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and have been instructed concerning the Lord's Supper, you are welcome to commune with us today. We continue to pray for the day when all divisions in the body of Christ will cease. Anyone who wishes may receive a pastoral blessing by kneeling at the altar rail with your arms folded across your chest. If you desire to commune at St. Paul and would like to learn more about the Lutheran Church, please speak with the pastor.

**To Those Communing Today:** God's Word instructs those who come to the Lord's Table to first examine themselves. You may use the meditation material in this bulletin to prepare yourself to receive the Sacrament.

The pastor will distribute the body of Christ followed by an usher with a tray of individual cups. The pastor will then follow with the Chalice.

Gluten free bread is available. Please ask the pastor or an usher before the service.

# Divine Service

Setting One (LSB page 151)

**Choral Prelude** “Jesus Christ the Apple Tree” *music by Elizabeth Poston*

*The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit, and always green:  
The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit, and always green:  
The trees of nature fruitless be Compare with Christ the apple tree.*

*His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell,  
His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell  
The glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:  
For happiness I long have sought and pleasure dearly I have bought:  
I missed of all; but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.*

*I'm weary with my former toil, Here I will sit and rest awhile:  
I'm weary with my former toil, Here I will sit and rest awhile:  
Under the shadow I will be, Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive;  
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be With Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

## Confession and Absolution

*Stand as you are able and face the baptismal font*

*“Repentance, therefore, is nothing else than a return and approach to baptism, to resume and practice what has earlier been begun but abandoned” (Large Catechism)*

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.





were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

*After the reading*

**A** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Processional Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LSB 379

1 O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him Born the king of angels: refrain

ref: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

2 Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God In the highest: refrain

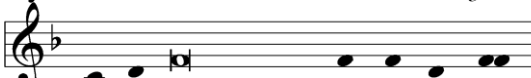
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! refrain

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt. Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786

## Service Of The Word

### Kyrie

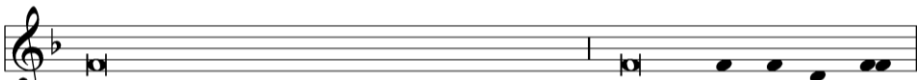
*Lord Have Mercy*



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



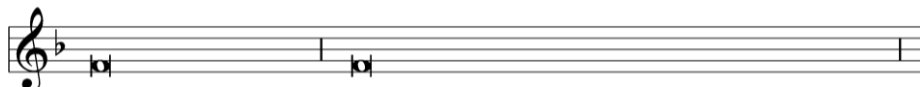
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



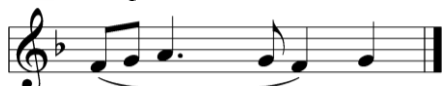
let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - - men.

## Hymn of Praise



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



**P** Let us pray.

*Silence for individual prayers*

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 49:8-13

<sup>8</sup>Thus says the Lord: “In a time of favor I have answered you; in a day of salvation I have helped you; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages, <sup>9</sup>saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’ to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’ They shall feed along the ways; on all bare heights shall be their pasture; <sup>10</sup>they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. <sup>11</sup>And I will make all my mountains a road, and my highways shall be raised up. <sup>12</sup>Behold, these shall come from afar, and behold, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene.” <sup>13</sup>Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! for the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.



*After the reading*



**A** This is the Word of the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 96



**A** Oh sing to the LORD a  new song;  
sing to the LORD,  all the earth!

**C** Sing to the LORD,  bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from  day to day.

**A** Declare his glory among the  nations,  
his marvelous works among all the  peoples!

**C** For great is the LORD, and greatly ♪ to be praised;  
he is to be feared a- ♪ bove all gods.

**A** For all the gods of the peoples are worthless ♪ idols,  
but the LORD made the ♪ heavens.

**C** Splendor and majesty are be- ♪ fore him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctu- ♪ ary.

**A** Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the ♪ peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD glo- ♪ ry and strength!

**C** Ascribe to the LORD the glory ♪ due his name;  
bring an offering, and come in- ♪ to his courts!

**A** Worship the LORD in the splendor of ♪ holiness;  
tremble before him, ♪ all the earth!

**C** Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is  
established; it shall nev- ♪ er be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with ♪ equity.”

**A** Let the heavens be glad, and let the ♪ earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and every- ♪ thing  
in it!

**C** Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD,  
♪ for he comes,  
for he comes to ♪ judge the earth.

**A** He will judge the world in ♪ righteousness,  
and the peoples in his ♪ faithfulness.

## Epistle Reading

Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,  
<sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-  
controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup>waiting for our  
blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus  
Christ, <sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to  
purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good  
works.

*After the reading*

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand as you are able*

## Alleluia and Verse

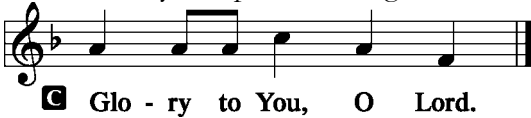


**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-14

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the second chapter.

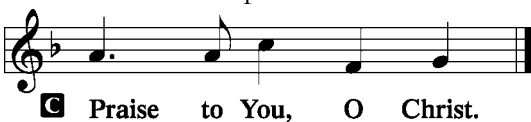


**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

*After the reading*

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

## Anthem

Mary Did You Know

## Sermon

“At Home”

Luke 2

## Hymn Of The Day

“O Sing of Christ”

LSB 362



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,  
2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred  
3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;  
4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.  
Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.  
Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.  
As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man - i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace  
For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;  
To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,  
Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.  
He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.  
Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.  
That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955 Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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*Stand as you are able*

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

*(All may kneel or bow:*

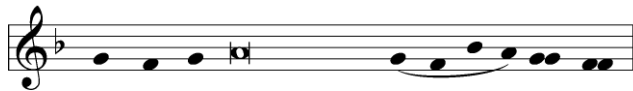




**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

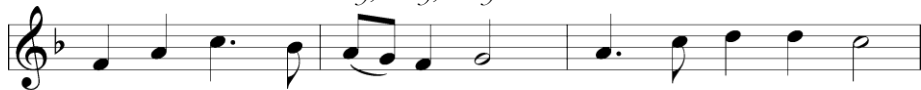


**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus

*Holy, Holy, Holy*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Bless-ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

### Prayer Of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You...one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### The Words Of Institution

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✝}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✝}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

### Proclamation of Christ

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

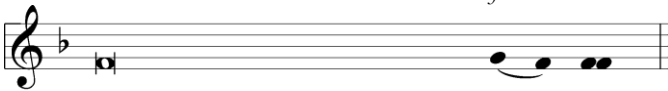
**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### Lord’s Prayer

**C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

### Pax Domini

*The Peace of the Lord*



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

### Invitation to Communion

**P** Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are those who are called to His Supper. *John 1:29; Revelation 19:9*

**C** Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed. *Matthew 8:8*

- C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.

## **Distribution Hymn**

### **What Feast of Love / What Child Is This**

1. What feast of love is offered here,  
What banquet come from heaven?  
What food of everlasting life,  
What gracious gift is given?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
The bread come down from heaven.  
O taste and see and sing!  
How sweet the manna given!
2. What light of truth is offered here,  
What covenant from heaven?  
What hope of everlasting life,  
What wondrous word is given?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
The Sun come down from heaven.  
O see and hear and sing!  
The Word of God is given!
3. What wine of love is offered here,  
What crimson drink from heaven?  
What stream of everlasting life,  
What precious blood is given?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
The sweetest wine of heaven.  
O taste and see and sing!  
The Son of God is given!

4. What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary!
  
5. Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!
  
6. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

*Repeat from stanza 1*

What Feast of Love, Text: Delores Dufner, OSB What Child is This, Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98  
Tune: GREENSLEEVES, English, 16th cent.

### **Post-Communion Hymn** “Go Tell It on the Mountain” **LSB 388**

- ref Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!
- 1 While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. *Refrain.*
  - 2 The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain.*
  - 3 Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain.*

Text (sts. 1–3): John W. Work II, 1873–1925, alt. Text (ref) and tune: African American spiritual

## Post-Communion Collect

**P** O God the Father... one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

*Please hold candle upright once lit*

## Hymn

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

LSB 363

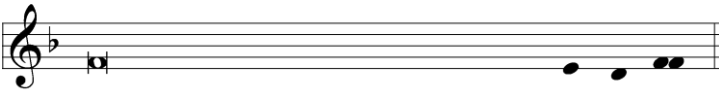
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,  
all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face  
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy  
peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85

Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863

*All extinguish candles*

## Benediction



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

